Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is the U.S. national phase of PCT Appln. No. PCT/EP2005/001361 filed February 10, 2005, which claims priority to German application 10 2004 007 028.8 filed February 12, 2004.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

1. Field of the Invention

On page 1, before the paragraph beginning on line 8, please add the following:

2. Description of the Related Art

Please amend the paragraph on page 1, line 9, as shown below:

Hot-melt adhesives (hotmelts) are used in the packaging sector, among others, as adhesives: for example, as adhesives for paper, paperboard, cardboard, and wood. Common hot-melt adhesives are based on ethylene-ethyl acrylate copolymers, polyamides, and ethylene-vinyl acetate copolymers. ~~In train with~~ Due to the increasing recycling of packaging materials there is a need for the adhesives to be readily detachable from the packaging materials. Ideally they ought to be amenable to removal by washing with water. The abovementioned standard hotmelts do not meet this condition.

On page 2, before line 1, please insert the following heading:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please amend the paragraphs on page 2, line 1 and line 6, as shown below:

It was an object of the invention to develop a hot-melt adhesive composition which exhibits good fluidity, leads to stable bonds, but is readily removable with water from the material to which ~~sticking~~ adhesion was intended. These and other objects are provided by ~~The invention provides for~~ the use of partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers in hot-melt adhesive compositions, characterized in that the vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers have a molecular weight Mw < ~~70000~~ 70,000; [[and]] the partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers have a degree of hydrolysis of 62 to 86 mol%[[,]]; and the hot-melt adhesive composition contains no mannitol.

On page 2, before line 15 , please insert the following heading:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 15, as shown below:

Suitable partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers are partially saponified vinyl ester polymers having a degree of hydrolysis of 62 to 86 mol%, preferably 65 to 75 mol%, most preferably 70 mol%. The weight-average molecular weight Mw is < ~~70000~~ 70,000, preferably 5000 to ~~30000~~ 30,000, as [[(]]determined by means of gel permeation chromatography[[)]], the molecular weight being determined prior to [[the]] saponification and the molecular weight Mw therefore referring to the as yet unsaponified vinyl ester homopolymer or copolymer. The hot-melt adhesive composition contains no anionic emulsifiers. In the partially saponified vinyl ester homopolymers and copolymers the vinyl alcohol units are randomly distributed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 3, as shown below:

The saponification of the vinyl ester polymers takes place in a manner known per se, [[by]] for example by the belt or extruder method or in a stirred tank, in the alkaline or acidic range with addition of acid or base. Preferably the solid vinyl ester resin is taken up in alcohol, methanol for example, to set a solids content of 15% to 70% by weight. The hydrolysis is preferably carried out in the basic range, by addition of NaOH, KOH or $NaOCH_3$, for example. The base is used generally in an amount of 1 to 5 mol% per mole of ester units. The hydrolysis is carried out at temperatures from 30°C to 70°C. After the end of the hydrolysis the solvent is removed by distillation. Alternatively the polyvinyl alcohol can be obtained as an aqueous solution by successive addition of water while the solvent is distilled off.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 36, as shown below:

The formulas specified in Table 1 were tested:

Solid resin:	partially saponified polyvinyl acetate with degree of hydrolysis = 70 mol% and molecular weight Mw (PVAc) = [[10000]] 10,000
PPG 400:	polypropylene glycol with OH number of 400
Licolub:	ethylenebisstearamide wax
Tegomuls:	glycerol monostearate